

allocated under the above mentioned Rules. Under the “Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012”, it has been decided to allocate 17 coal blocks to various State Government Companies/Corporations/Central Public Sector Undertakings under Government dispensation route.

(b) Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report. So far none of the coal blocks which stand allocated during the last five years have commenced production.

(c) and (d) Government periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocatee companies in the review meetings. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted on 21.06.2012 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to review the progress of development of allocated coal/lignite blocks and associated end use projects of the allocatees and make recommendations to Government including recommendation for de-allocation. Wherever delays are noticed, Government issues show cause notices and advisories to such allocatees cautioning them to bring the coal blocks into production as per the guidelines/milestones chart. Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the IMG now, the Government has so far de-allocated 12 coal blocks, which were allocated during the last five years.

Functioning of NIT, Goa

* 86. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Technology (NIT) has started functioning in Goa and if so, since when;

(b) the staff strength and the annual budget of the institute, at present;

(c) the financial assistance given by the Central Government so far and the amount spent by the State Government;

- (d) whether necessary land has been acquired, finalised or surveyed;
- (e) if not, the quantum of land proposed to be acquired and the stage of land acquisition; and
- (f) the details of hurdles in land acquisition, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes Sir, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Goa has started functioning from the academic year 2010-2011 onwards from its temporary campus at Goa College of Engineering, Farmagudi, Ponda, Goa.

(b) and (c) The Institute has at present 26 faculty and 15 non faculty staff in position for 376 students. The annual budget of NIT Goa for the year 2014-15 is Rs. 10 crore. NIT Goa is an Institute of National Importance under National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007 of Parliament functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Human Resource Development. An amount of Rs.24.90 crore has been released so far to the Institute by the Ministry of HRD during last five years.

(d) to (f) No Sir. The land located at Cuncolim (Goa) measuring about 120 acres has been identified for the permanent campus of National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Goa. According to the State Government, the process of land acquisition has been started by the Government of Goa.

Constitution of Road Safety Committees

*87. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the constantly increasing number of road accidents in the country, Government is taking steps for the safety of the people on all urban, State and inter-State roads of the country;
- (b) whether in view of the necessity of Road Safety Committees in all the States, there is any proposal to constitute such committees;
- (c) whether there is a need/proposal to formulate new rules/guidelines relating to road safety by amending the existing rules/guidelines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?